

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 311906Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2399

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 03117

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CA

SUBJECT: I - VISIT TO CANADA

(THIS IS THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF THREE TELEGRAMS TO  
SECRETARY KISSINGER FROM AMBASSADOR SCHMIDT)

1. IN MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL  
AFFAIRS MITCHELL SHARP ON DECEMBER 21, I ASKED HIM  
HIS IMPRESSION OF THE RECENT NATO MINISTERIAL. CON-  
TRARY TO MANY OTHER EXPRESSIONS OF DISCOURAGEMENT,  
SHARP WAS OPTIMISTIC AND ENCOURAGED ABOUT THIS MEETING.  
HE SAID THE SUCCESSIVE MEETINGS OF THE EUROGROUP TO  
DRAFT THE EC DECLARATION ENABLED INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS  
TO WORK OFF TENSIONS AGAINST THEMSELVES AND THE UNITED  
STATES AND TO APPRECIATE MORE FULLY THE IMPORTANCE OF  
INTERDEPENDENCE IN MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. IN  
SPITE OF CRITICISM REGARDING CONSULTATION AND UNHAPPINESS  
IN VARIOUS DIRECTIONS, AT NO POINT IN FORMAL STATEMENTS  
OR IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WAS THERE THE SLIGHTEST  
HINT OF ANY COUNTRY DESIRING TO WITHDRAW FROM NATO.  
HE THOUGHT THE MEETING WOULD BE THE STARTING POINT FOR  
GREATER HARMONY AND COOPERATION WITHIN NATO.

2. IN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION AS TO WHETHER HE WOULD  
PREFER OTTAWA OR WASHINGTON FOR THE LOCUS OF YOUR  
NEXT MEETING, HE SAID HE WOULD NATURALLY PREFER OTTAWA.

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I WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO COME TO OTTAWA IF AT ALL

POSSIBLE, PARTICULARLY SINCE OFFICIAL CANADA IS FEELING LEFT OUT OF THINGS WITH ALL THE FUSS ABOUT THE EC-US DECLARATION, THE NATO DECLARATION, PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE U.S., ETC.

3. I HAVE NO HESITANCY IN REMINDING THAT U.S. TRADE WITH CANADA AT AN ANNUAL LEVEL OF \$32 BILLION IS GREATER THAN OUR TRADE WITH THE ENTIRE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ALMOST AS GREAT AS WITH AFRICA AND ASIA COMBINED, AND ASIA INCLUDES JAPAN. OUR CANADIAN INVESTMENT AT \$40 BILLION IS GREATER THAN IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. IN THE ENERGY CRISIS, CANADA CONTINUES TO SEND US ABOUT 1,000,000 BARRELS OF OIL EACH DAY, ONE-SIXTH OF TOTAL U.S. PETROLEUM IMPORTS.

4. IF YOU GO TO LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES BEFORE COMING TO CANADA, IT WILL BE NOTED HERE, BUT WITHOUT ACRIMONY, BECAUSE CANADIANS ARE NOW ACCUSTOMED TO "NEIGHBORS BEING TAKEN FOR GRANTED," BEING LAST ON THE LIST FOR ASTRONAUT VISITS, ETC., BUT IT WILL ADD TO THE EXAMPLES OF THE UNITED STATES EARNESTLY CATERING TO ITS LIABILITIES IN THE WORLD BUT NEGLECTING ITS ASSETS.

5. I WOULD URGE YOU TO MAKE A ONE-DAY VISIT TO CANADA BEFORE LATIN AMERICA FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL REASONS, FLYING UP IN THE EARLY MORNING, CONVERSATIONS BEFORE AND AFTER LUNCH AND FLYING BACK IN THE AFTERNOON. I BELIEVE THE LONG-RANGE DIVIDENDS WILL BE WORTH THE TIME AND EFFORT.  
SCHMIDT

NOTE BY OC/T: DOWNGRADED FROM NODIS TO EXDIS PER REGINA  
M. ELTZ-S/S-O

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING REPORTS, REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, MINISTERIAL VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973OTTAWA03117  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** P750033-2241  
**From:** OTTAWA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t1973121/aaaaaaan.tel  
**Line Count:** 92  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 SEP 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12-Sep-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <15-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** I VISITS TO CANADA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, OVIP, CA, US, NATO, (SHARP, MITCHELL), (KISSINGER, HENRY A)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005